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HARTFORD- U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1) was joined by business and labor leaders today in announcing his eight point plan to protect U.S. manufacturing jobs and reduce the number of Connecticut manufacturing jobs being outsourced overseas. Larson will introduce the legislation, called the American Workers and Manufacturers Support Act, on April 20, when the House returns from April recess. Larson was joined by Frank Johnson of the Manufacturers Alliance of Connecticut (MAC), Fred Tedesco of MAD in the USA manufacturers coalition, John Olsen of the state AFL-CIO, and John Bauman of The Organization for the Rights of American Workers (TORAW).

"Manufacturing is the backbone of our economy and action must be taken to protect and create jobs here at home and stem the tide of American manufacturing jobs moving overseas," said Larson. "In the last three years, more than 2.8 million Americans have lost their jobs in the manufacturing sector, including 40,000 from Connecticut. I worked with business and labor leaders to craft this eight-point plan which are pragmatic steps designed to secure our manufacturing economic base, protect jobs, and help grow the manufacturing sector here at home. If our manufacturing base continues to erode, the effects of individual job losses on our economy and national security will be devastating. Connecticut manufacturers and labor leaders, which are represented here today, came together this past summer to oppose this outrageous practice.

"I was dismayed when the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, only months ago, stated that companies outsourcing American jobs overseas is 'a good thing.' I doubt that Americans that are out of work because their job went overseas believe that outsourcing is a good thing. We must protect the jobs we have and create others to fill the void left by the jobs that have been lost. That is the aim of this legislation," said Larson.

Summary of the legislation:

ONE: Stop subsidizing foreign manufacturing. Strengthen the Buy American Act to ensure that the federal government supports domestic companies and domestic workers by buying American-made goods.

TWO: Enforce existing trade agreements. Establish an independent board to periodically report to Congress on the status of enforcement of existing trade agreements and to provide recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce and the U.S. Trade Representative on how best to enforce and impose penalties on countries that do not adhere to existing trade agreements.

THREE: Stop the manipulation of currency exchange rates. Create a deadline for the Administration to negotiate an end to the currency devaluation by countries such as China that severely undervalue their currency. If these bilateral negotiations fail, the legislation would require the President to utilize powers he already possesses under U.S. and international law to file legal action to halt these practices and recover damages for U.S. manufacturers.

FOUR: Enable American consumers to make informed choices. Charge the Department of Commerce with studying the feasibility and impact with regards to costs to manufacturers and consumers of enacting laws requiring all products retailing at more than \$15 to state clearly on the labels the percentage of components made in the United States.

FIVE: Invest American dollars in America. Remove tax impediments hindering U.S. domestic manufacturers and workers, putting them at a competitive disadvantage both domestically and in global markets. The bill contains a number of

provisions aimed at making U.S. companies more competitive in the global market and resulting in an overall increase in U.S. manufacturing and in U.S. manufacturing jobs. The bill would reverse the destructive trend of foreign companies acquiring U.S. companies, keeping U.S. jobs, production, and research in the United States.

SIX: Stop pitting big American manufacturers against small ones. One practice is to place a large contract order to get a favorable price then to cancel the contract after only a portion of the goods are provided. The bill charges the Secretary of Commerce with setting up an investigative unit to look into these practices, establishing guidelines to address abuses and a unit to allow small manufacturers to confidentially report their complaints.

SEVEN: Ensure the flow of qualified manufacturing workers. Amend the Advanced Technological Education Program to include preparing students for manufacturing jobs. The bill would boost funding for the Advanced Technological Education program from its current level of approximately \$31 million to \$100 million over the four-year authorization period.

EIGHT: Support American small manufacturing. Create a new Undersecretary within the Department of Commerce to oversee the new Manufacturing and Technology Administration.

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